



MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
LOWER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LEC Plan)
TECHNICAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP
Broward County Office of Environmental Services Training Room
2555 West Copans Road, Pompano Beach, FL
Monday August 30, 2004
9:00 a.m.

Attendees: Irela Bagué, SFWMD Governing Board Member

WRAC Members:

Al Calloway	Walter Carson	Harry Cronin
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WRAC Alternates:

John Adornato	Lloyd Hathcock	Patti Webster
Ruth Clark	Fred Rapach	

Interested Parties:

Mark Abbott	Jamie Furgang	Elizabeth Matej
Jeff An	Richard Grosso	Maria Loucraft-Manzano
Kara Baxter	Lorraine Guise	Linda McCarthy
Kristin Bennett	Norm Hatch	Paul Millar
Randy Brown	George Haughney	Tim Murphy
Ed Davidson	Jennifer Jurado	Albert Perez
Patrick Davis	Charles Kohler	Irene Quincey
Dean Dickey	Shawn Komlos	Renae Rainge
Darrell Dunn	Steve Lamb	Roy Reynolds
Laura Feakes	Joan Lawrence	Brian Shields
Mick Finn	David Lee	Cathy Vogel
Donna Fries	Beth Carlson Lewis	Kristi Yanchis

SFWMD Staff:

Scott Burns	Carlyn Kowalsky	Rick Smith
Jose Fuentes	Paula Moree	Carl Woehlcke
Linda Hoppes	John Mulliken	
Jim Jackson	Michelle Percy	

1. Welcome by John Mulliken, Deputy Department Director, Water Supply Plan, SFWMD.

Mr. Mulliken called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He announced that Ms. Irela Bagué, SFWMD Governing Board member and Chair of the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan, is delayed by traffic and will join the discussion shortly.

2. LEC Plan Update Process and Status, by Carlyn Kowalsky, Director, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.

Ms. Kowalsky welcomed everyone and urged participation by all attendees. Introductions and their affiliation were provided by all stakeholders.

3. Report on LEC Plan (Plan) Content Technical Issues Working Group Meeting with Stakeholder Participation.

A recap of the meeting held on August 23, 2004 was provided.

Ms. Irene Quincey spoke on technical content and process for the Plan. The meetings have been well attended by representatives of the utilities and other groups, and the people that spoke were in agreement to learn the revisions to the Plan and to avoid the 9 year process of “birthing the elephant” like last time.

- How does this plan fit into the overall regulatory process; how is this plan going to be utilized when people come in for permits? People will be interested in this.
- How does this plan fit in with the overall objectives for resource protection? Reservations and planning? Consumptive Use process and overall urban water resources in Broward County and other counties.
- Demand projections discussed – questionnaires to utilities – and how that fits into future projections. Which projects fit in the base?
- Modeling scenarios were reviewed; two types of models – regional model and demand projections as local utilities grow. More interfaces with modelers were requested.

John Mulliken spoke on demand projections and said they are the same – there are two different models. Ms. Kowalsky spoke on improving modeling runs. Jim Jackson provided additional information on modeling runs and said the SFWMD modelers will present information at the next scheduled LEC meeting on September 22nd. Staff provided information on what information will be available to the stakeholders.

- Stakeholder requested detailed information on water cost and information the modelers could provide.

Further information from Jim Jackson on what will be presented at the next meeting by the modelers. Model runs will show the information on the years requested at the Technical Workshop on the 23rd of August and a request for “read-ahead material” was made and staff will do their best to provide that. The website will have information posted on CERP modeling runs.

[Chair Bagué joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.]

- Roy Reynolds spoke of alternative matters and said they should not only be listed, but all the information available be given. How well an alternative might be expected to work and what are the impediments and a cost range? Ms. Kowalsky addressed his concerns and said the utilities will be better equipped to provide this information. Regulation will be a huge factor. Mr. Mulliken said that with cooperation more useful information will be made available. Mr. Jackson asked the stakeholders to review data on modeling in District reports.
- John Adornato asked for information on water reservations. This topic was postponed from the last meeting and is not now scheduled on the upcoming agenda on September 22nd. Ms. Bagué responded that reservations are still a priority and important to the District. Water reservations will be discussed at a workshop for the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC). At the September 2, 2004 there will be a preliminary presentation on water reservations at SFWMD Headquarters in West Palm Beach.
- Richard Grosso spoke on water reservations. He expressed his concerns that LEC consumptive use demands will be established and the reservations will be a result of water that is not available and that will be a problem. Water reservations should be done now. Chair Bagué and Mr. Mulliken provided information on the process of using the WRAC and Governing Board to look at all four regional water supply regions for water reservations. Attorney Grosso asked “What will be the flexibility to modify projections in the future?” Scott Burns reviewed the process used by WRAC regarding Consumptive Use Permitting and reservations on water supply plans that were determined in the past. Discussion on “base condition” by Mr. Grosso and Mr. Burns. Mr. Mulliken provided information on increased demands and future improvements in the Everglades and water needed for Everglades Restoration. Mr. Adornato said an environmental group is against the District’s “Guiding Principles”, and he thinks there is a perception problem with water reservations. Mr. Jackson said that screening level of modeling results and alternatives in the LEC process will be presented at the next meeting.
- Fred Rapach asked how the LEC Plan fits in with larger issues (modeling efforts with CERP) as some people are not quite clear what this Plan will accomplish. Mr. Jackson said there is a current plan in place, and staff is currently working on an update to that plan. Mr. Rapach asked if when setting reservations in CERP, is there any linkages to the LEC Plan?
- Capt. Ed Davidson said LEC is the parent plan and CERP is the child. He spoke of setting minimum flows and levels being delayed for numerous years and the concerns by environmental groups. He believes there should be a mandate that any significant increase in demand projections. We are years late in doing that.

Reservations for the environment were discussed. Linkage to local government is important.

- Roy Reynolds said he has heard some troubling comments today regarding urban demand and the effect on reservations. Urban demand has no relationship to reservations. Reservations are more important to supply side. He asked that WRAC establish a single working group only on *Reservations*. Chair Bagué said that is what she is doing and then that will come back to this group. Mr. Grosso said the “facts are the facts”, and the position of environmental groups is the constraints needed for Everglades restoration. Mr. Adornato agreed with Mr. Grosso and provided additional input on this matter. Mr. Jackson said there are a number of complex inter-related issues and there are variables. Demand projection information was provided.
- Capt. Davidson asked about the 80/20 balance and Mr. Mulliken said this is still considered.

4. Goal and Objectives for LEC Plan Update, by Jim Jackson, LEC Project Manager.

Chair Bagué introduced Mr. Jackson.

A copy of a handout entitled “Discussion Draft – Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Update” was distributed. A copy of his handout is made a part of the public record of this meeting [Attachment A].

The goals and objectives that have been established were reviewed. Mr. Jackson asked if any additional GOALS should be added to the list. Stakeholders asked for clarification on the wording. Mr. Mulliken spoke on Governing Board established targets for restoration and staff is trying to achieve the goals that were established. Staff does not set the goal. Several stakeholders asked for minor revisions to the definition to GOAL.

- Jaime Furgang spoke on the “goals” and the set for Biscayne Bay MFLs and asked if they will only meet the goals established. She wondered if this will have the flexibility to include the Biscayne Bay MFLs. Mr. Mulliken said there will be performance measures from Biscayne Bay in the Plan and a look into the future to 2025 targets; this is not a simple thing in the tasks for CERP. The goal is to get as close as we can to meeting the targets without causing harm. Performance measures you are trying to achieve are the only way to reach a target.
- Ruth Clark spoke on the timetables of MFLs and CERP projects. Mr. Jackson provided information. Ms. Clark said restoration is based on demands for maximum flows and she can’t imagine how this will ever play out because it is so complex. Paul Millar, spoke on the MFLs in the Loxahatchee River, and the possibility that reservations could be lower than the MFLs.

- Kristen Bennett said she believes the goal was not set by the Governing Board. The goal here was set for the Strategic Plan for LEC. Ms. Bagué said this goal is part of the Strategic Plan generally for water supply plans. There is flexibility in the objectives. Mr. Jackson said there is information on the website on the Lower East Coast Plan. The ten other programs were listed by Mr. Jackson.
- Irene Quincey spoke on the “Objectives” presented in the Plan. She asked that staff add an objective – what is the relationship of this plan to other components? There may need to be a holding category to assist with the Objectives on interrelated issues.

Roundtable discussion and suggested comments from stakeholders.

Suggested Changes Are Listed Below:

LEC Objectives:

- Expand upon last objectives – Compatibility and linkage with other Planning efforts.
- Planning and rulemaking (regulatory)
- Role of Plan in rulemaking process, operational process, restoration.
- Regulation tied to LEC Plan. – Clarify how used.
- Flexibility.

Ms. Kowalsky said this was a good discussion, and some general understanding does need to be reached.

Return to general discussion and requested changes.

- Part of Goal – adequate water for the Everglades. What does it mean?
- Linkage with Local Governments & Compatibility and Linkage with Other Planning Efforts: Change “promote” to “provide”.
- Linkage with Local Governments.
- Water Supply:
 - Do, use ASR, etc.;
 - A good Floridan model to calculate information;
 - Evaluation of use.
 - Impact of all utilities going to Floridan.
- Water Resources:
 - Meet MFLs and have stated explicitly in the document.
 - Separated “water supply” from “water resources” and this should be better defined. It should say “natural” resources.
- Separated Water Supply and Water Resources.
- Conservation and Alternative Source Development:

- Develop Water Sources
- Comma after water use
- Max development efficiency.

Stakeholder commented on Floridan models and Mr. Mulliken provided additional information on planning. Stakeholder spoke on this matter and asked that linkage to consumptive use permits be included. Mr. Mulliken said that the planning level models will not be as detailed as the specific site models. Harry Cronin asked for specifics on permitting. Roy Reynolds suggested a “box” be put in the Plan to tailor the criteria for Consumptive Use Permitting to use that model. John Adornato asked about performance measures and guiding principles and if the CERP review process would be used. Mr. Jackson discussed the use of CERP model runs, and competing performance measures. Dean Dickey commented that the Floridan system is a regional asset and the false statements on relieving the problems need to be addressed.

Chair Bagué said more comments are welcome and should be sent to staff.

5. Status of Population and Demand Projections for Public Water Supply, by Carl Woehlcke, Lead Economist, Water Supply.

Chair Bagué introduced Mr. Woehlcke. A copy of his handout is made a part of the public record of this meeting (Attachment B).

Mr. Woehlcke reported on the responses to a mailout on the status of population and demand projects for public water supply. There were 20 total responses received.

A mailout sent last year to utility companies and the results were discussed. Presentation contained information on service area changes; matching service areas and TAZ projections; finished water demands; water sources; treatment process; and ASR losses.

The next steps are: (1) need any remaining input; (2) prepare demand adjustments to incorporate in screening runs; resolve issues raised by responses; and prepare revised demands reflecting full consideration of input.

The information presented today is as accurate as possible. Incorporation of information in the modeling.

General question and answer session. By the end of the year, the analysis should be complete. It was suggested that the information should not be “locked in” right now, because utility companies may have flawed data. There is an ongoing effort regarding working together on gathering information. Consistency between all the efforts is very important.

6. Schedule for Next Workshop, Irela Bagué.

September 22nd at 9:00 a.m. is the next scheduled meeting at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami, Florida. The Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) is meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Adjournment at 12:00 p.m.

Paula Moree
Staff Business Operations Analyst
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD